

REPLACED BY
ART 34 ADJUT

We claim:

1. A thixotropic agent comprising as components

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from 0.1 to 30% by weight of at least one ethylene terpolymer wax,

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from 5 to 70% by weight of at least one first solvent incompatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax, and

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from 5 to 85% by weight of at least one solvent compatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax and with said first solvent(s).

2. A thixotropic agent as claimed in claim 1, comprising as component at least one ethylene terpolymer wax synthesized from

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from 80 to 99.9% by weight of ethylene,

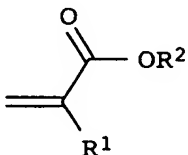
from 0.1 to 20% by weight of at least two comonomers comprising

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as first comonomer from 1 to 99% by weight of at least one C₃-C₁₂ alkenecarboxylic acid and

as second comonomer from 99 to 1% by weight of at least one ester of the formula I

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where R¹ is selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkyl, and C₆-C₁₄ aryl

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and R² is selected from C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkyl, and C₆-C₁₄ aryl.

3. A thixotropic agent as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said first comonomer is acrylic acid.

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4. A thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methyl and R^2 is methyl in formula I.
- 5 5. A thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the ethylene copolymer wax is synthesized from
- 10 from 90 to 99% by weight of ethylene and from 10 to 1% by weight of at least two comonomers comprising
- 15 from 30 to 70% by weight of at least one C_3-C_{12} alkenecarboxylic acid as first comonomer and
- from 70 to 30% by weight of at least one ester of the formula I as second comonomer.
6. A process for preparing a thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, which comprises first dissolving the ethylene terpolymer wax in one or more solvents compatible
- 20 with the ethylene terpolymer wax and then adding at least one solvent incompatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax.
7. A coating material comprising at least one thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5.
- 25 8. A metallic paint comprising at least one thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5.
9. A process for preparing a coating material or metallic paint by mixing in a thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims
- 30 1 to 5.
10. A surface coated with a coating material or metallic paint comprising at least one thixotropic agent as claimed in any
- 35 of claims 1 to 5.

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